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February 16, 1951

MEMORANDUM

To: OLI - Mr. A. Sidney Buford, III

From: BI - Mr. A. John Cope, Jr. *ACB*

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

On January 14, 1951 I called by appointment on Mr. Donald Nicholson of SY to inform him of the proposed survey by IAC of the methods and procedures employed by responsible government agencies in their biographic reporting operations. It was also my purpose to ascertain whether any of the records maintained in his Division appeared to fall within the scope of the prescribed questionnaire which had been assigned to BI for completion on behalf of the Department.

Mr. Nicholson inclined to the opinion that the majority of the files maintained in SY were not of the type which should appropriately be mentioned in the questionnaire. He pointed out that SY conducted investigations "of and for the Department" and that while it was possible to encounter foreigners in the course of the investigations undertaken by his division, information regarding them was not of prime interest to SY unless they were themselves the subjects of investigation. Although such information was of incidental value, I was given to understand that it was not customarily retained in any particular "biographic" file, but kept readily available in the individual dossiers relating to cases of investigated persons. Mr. Nicholson stated, however, that certain files comprising the fringe of SY operations might possibly warrant coverage in the questionnaire under consideration.

I explained to Mr. Nicholson that since SY kept a record of names of foreigners appearing in its investigative reports, reference to such card files or name indices might well merit inclusion in the list of Departmental files of interest to the IAC in its projected survey. Mr. Nicholson thought that the suggestion deserved careful consideration. He agreed to study and to return to BI with his comments a copy of the questionnaire which was left with him for his attention.

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Mr. Shipman and Mr. Anderson of DC/RM are also undertaking to determine what files and records in the custody of that Division should be covered in the questionnaire. A discussion concerning the possible coverage of VD files in the questionnaire is also contemplated.

OLI:BI:AJCope,Jr;fw

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